

21 JULY 2001

Mustapa-Campus

POLITICAL PARTIES DIVIDING CAMPUS COMMUNITY

KOTA BAHARU, July 21 (Bernama) -- Umno Information Chief, Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said the presence of political parties in institutions of higher learning was dividing students on campus.

He said the presence of political parties was creating an unfavourable environment on campus which not only affected the university's image but also interrupted students' studies.

"A new trend has emerged today in that they (students) have become fanatical and do not want to accept the views of others, hence closing their minds," he told reporters after opening a Safety and IT Literacy Programme here today.

Mustapa, who is also advisor of the National Economic Action Council, was commenting on a statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday that there was a group of people who were betraying society and twisting the thoughts of the younger generation for their own interest.

He added that it must be accepted by all that the tense situation on campus was created by political parties and students have deviated from the original agenda of obtaining education.

"Students must have their own stand, they should not be fanatical in pursuing a certain cause and should accept all views," he said.

He said the attitude of fanatical students in pursuing a certain cause was very disappointing.

"As such, we hope everybody will toe the line and take the advice of the Prime Minister as any move to confuse the focus of the younger generation would affect their academic performance," he said.

In this light he called on all students in institutions of higher learning to remain focused and concentrate on their studies as education guaranteed a future.

Earlier, speaking at the opening of the seminar, Mustapa said information technology education must be nurtured in children, beginning from pre-school.

-- BERNAMA

BD DVS